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London and Middlesex Historical Society

PART III.

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London and Middlesex Historical Society

TRANSACTIONS, 1909-1911

THE SETTLEMENT OF LONDON
CL. T. CAMPBELL, M.D.

THE FIRST BISHOP OF HURON
VERSCHOYLE CRONYN, ESQ.

1911
Published by the Society

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The London and Middlesex Historical Society was organized in the year 1901. Its objects are to promote historical research, and to collect and preserve records and other historical material that may be of use to the future historians of our country. Its funds are devoted exclusively to these objects ; there are no salaried officers.

The Public Library Board grants the Society the free use of a room for its meetings, which are held on the third Tuesday evening of each month from October to April, inclusive, and to which the public are invited—admission always free. Membership in the Society is open to any person interested in its objects, and is maintained by the payment of an annual fee of fifty cents.

Transactions of the London and Middlesex Historical Society

1909-10

Oct. 19th, 1909—"Elements of Canadian Greatness," by the Postmaster of London, Ontario (Peter Macdonald, Esq., M.D.).

Nov. 16th—At the Normal School, "The Quebec Tercentenary," by Miss Fitzgibbon, Secretary of the Women's Historical Society, of Toronto.

Jan. 17th, 1910—"The founding and early history of the Western Medical School," by H. A. McCallum, Esq., M. D.

Feb. 15th—At the Normal School, lecture on "The War of 1812, '13, '14, and Battle of Yorktown," by Barlow Cumberland, Esq., President Ontario Historical Society.

March 15th—Annual Meeting; Reports of Officers; Report on the Historical Exhibition at the Western Fair, under the supervision and valuable aid of Mr. Pratt; on the erection by the Society of a stone monument with brass tablet bearing an inscription as a memorial of the "Victoria Disaster" (May 24, 1881) ; on the publication of Part II. of "Historic Sketches of London and Middlesex." Officers elected :—President, Mr. A. W. Fraser ; Vice-President, Captain T. J. Murphy ; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Geo. Brickenden; Secretary, Rev. Geo. M. Cox ; Treasurer, Mr. J. Dearness ; Curator, Dr. Woolverton. Executive Committee—Miss Priddis, Miss Lougheed, Mr. Henry Macklin, Dr. Cl. T. Campbell, Mr. Harvey, and the officers.

April 19th—"The Life of Lord Durham," by Mr. John Stevenson.

Sept., 1910—A large and most interesting exhibition was, by the courtesy of the Western Fair Board, given throughout the duration of the Western Fair, of objects of local and general historic value.

October 25th, 1910—"Historic Landmarks," by J. Stewart Carstairs, Esq., of Toronto.

November 22nd—"Experiences of Messrs. Harry Salter and Robert Allan in H.M. One Hundredth, Royal Canadian Regiment about the year 1858," read by President A. W. Fraser.

December 20th—" The London Military School," by Secretary Rev. G. M. Cox.

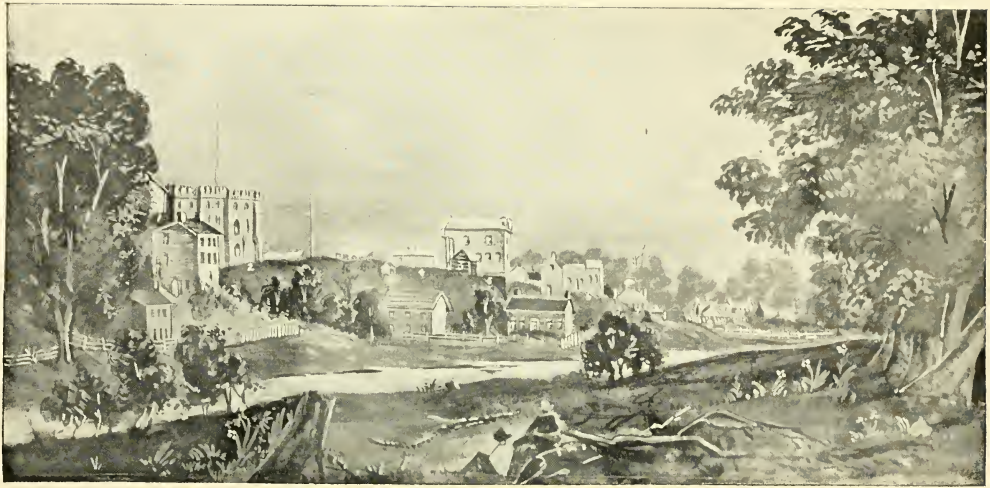
1911

January 17th—"The Settlement of London" (Part I.), by Dr. Cl. T. Campbell.

February 21st—"Training for Industrial Life," by Mr. Clarkson W. James, C.S.R., of the Education Department, Toronto (read at the Normal School) ; also "The War of 1812, with special reference to General Proctor's retreat up the Thames," by Mr. Black, of Chatham.

March 21st—"The Settlement of London" (Part II.) ; also a report by the Treasurer (Vice-Principal Dearness) of "The Annual Meeting of The Ontario Historical Society at Brockville, 1910."

April 20th—"Tecumseh and the War of 1812," by Mr. Norman Gurd, Sarnia, Ont. Annual Meeting, Reports, and Election of Officers.



"LONDON ABOUT 1840."

The Settlement of London

BY CL. T. CAMPBELL, M.D.

In the beginning of the last century the capital or judicial seat of the London District was Vittoria, in the County of Norfolk. This was quite proper at that time, for the bulk of the population of Southwestern Ontario centred round Long Point. With the trend of emigration westward, however, Vittoria was getting to be on the outskirts of the district, and the people wanted their courts held in a more central place. Luckily, the court house was destroyed by fire in 1825, and that gave opportunity for a removal.

Col. Talbot naturally wanted St. Thomas chosen; and a site was even selected for the building, near the present court house. Delaware also had aspirations, and Mr. Tiffany offered a site. But the Government selected the plot reserved by Col. Simcoe at the forks of the Thames for his capital. It is said that this was largely due to the influence of Col. Burwell. He had been defeated in an election for Parliament a short time before, and, as he believed, mainly through the vote of people on the Talbot road. If so, he not only gratified his revenge, but received a job as surveyor of the new district capital. Others, however, helped to secure the public buildings for "The Forks." Capt. Matthews, of Lobo, father-in-law of Mr. Goodhue, and a member of the Legislature; Squires Schofield, Ingersoll, Teeple, Homer and Springer, all used their influence, and with success.

As soon as the act was passed authorizing the building of the court house, enterprising people began to turn their thoughts towards the new settlement. The first man to make a move in this direction was Peter McGregor, a Highland Scotchman, who had been keeping a little tavern and store near Springbank. In 1826 he took up lot 21, south side of King and the corner of Ridout, and commenced to build a hotel. In this he was assisted by Samuel Wood, from Long Point; and these two were the first settlers in London. They were followed very shortly by John Yerex and his brother Abraham, carpenters, who located on the

north-west corner of York and Ridout ; and it was in their house subsequently the first child was born in London—Nathaniel Yerex.

McGregor's hotel was only a log shanty, and the accommodation for travellers consisted of little more than a jug of whiskey on a stump at the door. He improved things later, however; for Mrs. McGregor (formerly a Miss Poole, of Westminster) was an energetic helpmate, and doubtless encouraged her husband. Yet it was altogether inadequate to meet the demands on extra occasions; and when the first court was held visitors had to go out to Joseph Flannigan's, some three miles south, to get a bed.

But the hotel accommodations of London were soon ample. Abraham Carroll, from Oxford County, put up a respectable hostelry, the Mansion House, on the north side of Dundas, east of Ridout, in 1828. A year or two later, however, he disposed of it; and it passed into the hands, first, of R. Traverse; then J. O'Dell, and finally John O'Neil, under whose management it was for a long time the principal tavern in London. O'Neil seems to have come to London from Norfolk County as a deputy court crier and constable, about 1830 ; he was created a J. P. in 1833, and was a prominent citizen and a leader of the Orangemen. In 1830 McGregor built a better hotel where the Robinson Hall building now stands. It was a frame building, subsequently operated by H. B. Lee ; it was afterwards destroyed by fire. McGregor moved later to North Street, where he died.

But man could not live by whiskey alone, even in those bibulous days ; and the wants of the early settlers had to be met by the general store. Merchants of various kinds followed close on the heels of Peter McGregor. Among those were Dennis O'Brien, G. J. Goodhue, Patrick McMannis, Chas. Henry, and others. Of these, O'Brien and Goodhue were the principal men. The former, with McMannis and Henry, was an itinerant merchant; while Goodhue had been running a store, distillery and ashery near Byron, and moved into London in 1829.

As these were not only among the earliest settlers, but became notable men in London, a little place may be given to them here. O'Brien was born in Fermoy, Ireland, in 1792; came to America in 1811, settling first in Maine. He moved to Canada in 1820, and travelled with his merchandise through the London district for several years, finally locating in London in 1827. Here

he took up lot 13, south side of Dundas, east of Ridout. Goodhue was born in the State of Vermont, but in 1822 came to St. Thomas, where he was for some time clerk for his elder brother, Dr. Jos. Goodhue, a merchant. Subsequently he started in business in Westminster, but moved into London in 1829, locating in lot 20, north-east corner of Dundas and Ridout Streets.

Both men prospered. O'Brien built the first brick block on Dundas Street, west of Ridout, and rented it to the Government, before it was completed, for the use of the soldiers who were stationed in London in 1838. During the rebellion he seemed to keep on good terms with both parties, and held several lucrative contracts for conveying goods and material for the military authorities. Goodhue also dabbled in other things besides his general store. He kept an ashery on Dundas Street, west of the present City Hotel, where the farmers dumped the ashes they obtained from burning the forests they had cleared, getting their pay in store goods. And here the ashes were converted, by leaching, into "black salts," an important article of commerce in those days. He also bought and sold lands, loaned money on notes and mortgages, acted as magistrate, and became a member of the Upper House of Parliament in pre-confederation days. The only public recognition of O'Brien's labors in London was his appointment as J. P. in 1858.

They were both active, energetic men, but of very different types. O'Brien, medium height, thick-set and sturdy in appearance, vivacious, good natured, as only an Irishman can be. A devoted Catholic, he took the lead in everything connected with his church. At the same time, he took all the enjoyment out of life that he could get. Sometimes his good nature was abused, as is shown by a letter I have seen, sent to him on Christmas morning of 1835, in which two of his fellow citizens make most abject apologies for having created a disturbance at his house the night before. Evidently the refreshments had been supplied with a too lavish hand at the Christmas Eve party.

Goodhue, as I remember him, was less stoutly built and taller, with a calm, cold eye, and a countenance not much given to smiles—a business man, with little thought for anything else. His second wife, who survived him, was a daughter of Capt. Matthews, of Lobo ; but his politics were different from those of his father-in-law, for he was a steadfast supporter of the Family Compact. This was the more

notable as he belonged to a family of United States immigrants who were political radicals—his relatives, Bigelow and Dr. Goodhue, of St. Thomas, both attaining some notoriety in this character. He died worth nearly half a million—probably one of the wealthiest men of Southern Ontario at the time. O'Brien made plenty of money also, but it did not stick so closely to his fingers.

Another early settler was Henry Davis, who came from New York in 1827, and in 1831 commenced business as a watchmaker or jeweler on the east side of Ridout, near York. This was continued for many years by him, and later by his son William, though the location was changed to Dundas Street.

Andrew McCormick, from County Down, Ireland, took up lot 19, north side of York, east of Ridout, in 1829, first working at his trade as a plasterer, but subsequently becoming a merchant and a prominent citizen. His son, Andrew, was mayor of London, and his granddaughter is a worthy officer of the London Historical Society.

Major Ira Schofield was a magistrate, who had a distillery down the river. (Nearly all the early settlers seemed to make whiskey as well as drink it.) He afterwards took up some land east of the forks, where the Sacred Heart Academy is now. The first post office in the vicinity of London was opened in Lawrason's store, a few miles west, in 1825; but when the court came to London the post office was moved to Schofield's log house in 1827, and the Major became postmaster—a position which he held until the office was again moved to a more convenient place, in Goodhue's store, in 1829, and given into his charge. Major Schofield sold his place to L. Lawrason and moved down to North Street, near Richmond, where he died shortly after.

Others to be briefly mentioned were John Kent, an Englishman, who came to Canada in 1823, and bought a farm which extended on both sides of the river, from Richmond Street west, though his residence was on the west side ; Thomas Waters, a U. E. Loyalist, from New Brunswick, who came to Westminster in 1820, and was the first owner of the Pond Mills, subsequently taking up land along Carling's Creek, where Waters' mill (near the present site of Carling's Brewery) was for some years a landmark ; Levi Merrick, who built the first bridge at the foot of York Street, in 1826 ; Ben Higgins, who came from Ireland in 1828, first farming a 10-acre field near Blackfriars' bridge,

and later running a hotel on the corner of Dundas and Clarence Streets ; and Samuel Laughton, the pioneer blacksmith, located on Richmond Street, near Bathurst.

The work of preparing for the accommodation of the courts commenced in 1826, as soon as the plot was surveyed. In order that there might be no delay, a temporary frame building was erected on the north-east corner of the square, and in this the first court of quarter sessions was held, on January 9th, 1827—Col. Ryerse as chairman. A writer in The Gore Gazette, Ancaster, July 31st, 1827, describing London, which he had just visited, states that this "was a building erected by subscription, and eventually intended for the district schoolhouse."

Garrett Oakes, of Yarmouth, in his pioneer sketches, says : "This building was constructed of flat logs, and on the ground floor was a log partition, to separate the jail from the jailer's room. The courtroom above was reached by a stairs from the outside. As soon as the house was roofed William Parke, the old Vittoria jailer, removed to London to assume his office in the new building, and I assisted him to finish the courtroom in a rough manner." (Ermatinger's Talbot Regime, page 123.)

The court house itself, of course, required more time The plan was drawn by a Mr. Edwards, of Toronto; and out of compliment to Col. Talbot, its exterior was designed in imitation of Malahide Castle, his birthplace. The front of the building faced the west, overlooking the river. Mr. John Ewert, of Toronto, secured the contract. He never became a citizen of London, though he was a property holder, owning lot 20, on Dundas Street, sold afterwards to J. G. Goodhue. His partner, Thomas Parke, however, took charge of the work, became a resident and a prominent citizen, living at first within the limits, but subsequently moving across the river into Westminster. In 1833 he was elected to Parliament as one of the two county members, serving two terms, during the latter part of which he was a member of the executive council, with the office of Surveyor-General. Another Toronto man, William Hale, came to London at this time, and manufactured the brick—suitable clay being found at the rear of the present Robinson Hall, and also across the river, on land subsequently owned by Walter Nixon.

Among the mechanics who were drawn to the new settlement by prospects of work was Robert Carfrae, who lived

to a good old age, which he finished on Carfrae Street, London South. He used to tell that when crossing over the new bridge at the foot of York Street, plodding along the rough road, he came to Yerex's cottage, and asked, "How far is it to London?" "Why, you are in it," was the answer.

By 1829 the court house was completed, and the temporary building was removed to the south-west corner of the lot, where it became the grammar school, familiar to the old residents of London, many of whom received their education within its walls. It is now used as a storehouse by the water commissioners.

The court house had a very stately appearance to an outsider, but its interior arrangements would not be considered either convenient or sanitary, from a modern point of view. Of course, it was smaller than the present building, which was enlarged in 1878, making six turrets instead of four. There was no separate jail at first, criminals being locked up in the cell underground. The interior was plainly furnished—the only notable decoration was the finely executed painting of the coat-of-arms, the work of a French artist by the name of Lefebre.

Both the temporary and permanent court house, however, saw some lively scenes. In the former the accommodation was so limited that the jury would often retire to the shade of a neighboring tree to pursue their deliberations. Many of the cases tried were of a comparatively trifling nature—petty larceny, assault and civic disputes; and the penalties inflicted were fines, imprisonment, flogging, and even the stocks, though these latter soon fell into disuse, and were formally consigned to the mercies of the Thames in spring flood by Constable Henry Groves, on the order of the magistrates. The first prisoner is said to have been a man named Reed, who was found guilty of stealing his neighbor's axe, and who served his term of imprisonment by being chained to the stump of a tree in the daytime, and to a block of wood in an unfinished cell at night.

One of the first cases, however, was a charge of murder. Thomas Pomeroy, a sheriff's officer, had been killed by a man named Burleigh. The murderer was promptly captured, tried, sentenced and executed in three days after his trial. Quick justice; but then the accommodation for

prisoners was limited. And perhaps it was thought well to put the condemned out of misery as soon as possible.

The starting of the judicial machinery in London in the twenties rendered it advisable for the officers of the court to make this city their home. For a few years most of them continued to reside at Vittoria, visiting London only when required. Sheriff Rappalje never came. He used to send his son to act for him as deputy. There was no resident sheriff here until Norfolk was set off as a separate district in 1837, and James Hamilton was appointed to London.

While the Chairman of the Board of Quarter Sessions frequently acted as judge, the first regular appointee for the district was James Mitchell. He was not a lawyer, but a highly-educated man, who came out from Scotland with Dr. Strachan. For a time he was tutor to James Hamilton's children ; was afterwards given charge of the district grammar school at Vittoria, and finally appointed judge in 1819. He made a very efficient judge, few of his decisions being overruled. As years and infirmities increased, Wm. Young, an English lawyer, from Caradoc, was appointed junior judge ; but he, dying shortly after, Mr. Williams, an Englishman, who came from the West Indies, took his place. Mitchell remained the senior judge as long as he lived ; but he was for some years utterly unfit for any work, owing largely to the reckless habits, characteristic of so many of our pioneers. He died in 1844, at his home on York Street, near Ridout, and was succeeded by Judge Allen.

The clerk of the court was Col. J. B. Askin. He was born in Detroit, of mixed Irish and Indian blood, and was appointed to office while the court was being held at Vittoria. He is said not to have been the most agreeable man to deal with. The characteristics of the two races which met in him seemed to counteract each other. The volatile nature of the Celt had to contend with the seriousness and impassivity of the Indian. While he was active to the extent of fussiness, the cold indifference of the aborigine modified the levity of the Irishman. He took everything seriously, and got excited over it. He could not understand a joke; and that was probably the reason why, during the rebellion, the young men used to play tricks on him, and send him off on a "wild goose chase" after imaginary rebels.

The treasurer of the district was John Harris, an Englishman, who had been in the naval service, but had retired on half pay, and was living near Long Point. A thorough John Bull, afraid of nothing, he would take the most extreme measures for what he thought was right. His wife was the daughter of Col. S. Ryerse, and made Eldon House (built in 1835) the social center of London. Sir James Alexander, in 1842, said there was no society in London, only three or four families; and he especially eulogized the hospitality of Eldon House. Mr. Harris took a very active part in 1837-38 in support of the Government, though as a volunteer without any official position. His connection with the "Caroline" episode is to-day known to very few outside of the family. He was at Niagara at the time that MacKenzie and his United States sympathizers were utilizing Navy Island as a base of supplies, and conveying men and munitions to it in the Caroline. His experience as a naval officer showed the situation favorable for "cutting out" the Caroline. He suggested it to Col. McNab; Capt. Drew was called in consultation; and the attempt was decided on. Mr. Harris accompanied the expedition, which was successful, and the captured vessel went over the falls that night. On account of Mr. Harris' position as a half-pay officer, it was deemed inexpedient to make public the fact that he was on active duty, and nothing was said at the time about his share in the enterprise. He was subsequently treasurer of Middlesex, and also of London town, and died at his home in 1850.

Col. Mahlon Burwell, the registrar of deeds, was born in New Jersey, February 18th, 1783. Educated as a land surveyor, he came when a young man to Canada, and through Col. Talbot's influence had nearly all the Government work in the district. He was appointed registrar in 1812, was a member of Parliament for the county and once for London, and became a colonel in the militia during the rebellion. He does not appear to have seen any fighting, but was taken from a sick bed during a Yankee raid, and held prisoner in the United States for several months. He never lived in London. The little brick building on the Southwold town line, in which he kept the registry office, is, I think, still standing. He died on the 25th of January, 1867.

The other officers were Gideon Bostwick, court crier; John O'Neil, deputy crier and constable; Samuel Park, jailer, and Wm. K. Cornish, deputy clerk.

Peter Schram, a German, came to Middlesex in 1818, and was high constable for the county under Sheriff Rappelje. He was an early settler in London, and was succeeded in office by Henry Groves, born in Sussex, England, 1806, emigrating to Canada in 1830, and settling in London in 1832. Mr. Groves had a chair factory on York Street, west of Ridout. He subsequently held the office of court crier and high constable, and died in 1887.

As some compensation for the enforced removal of the court officers from Vittoria, they received grants of five acres each in the vicinity of London, all river lots. The Harris lot is still occupied by the family. Judge Mitchell's was further north ; Burwell, Askin and Hamilton located south and west of the town.

The pioneer lawyer who practiced in London was John Tenbroeck, who moved here from Vittoria. He was of a U. E. L. family—Captain Jacob Tenbroeck having fought for the mother land in the American revolution, and receiving a grant of 300 acres in Grantham Township, where his great-grandson died this year. John was a man of marked ability, marred only by the common failing of his contemporaries, which apparently rendered his financial dealings sometimes unsatisfactory to his creditors. In those days, in civil cases, the judge received a fee of one dollar, and the jury one dollar and fifty cents—a York shilling apiece. It is said that when Tenbroeck had charge of a case the jury would not bring in a verdict, nor the court pronounce judgment, until the money was paid.

Other pioneer lawyers were Nelon Stuart (noted principally for his duel with an officer of the 22nd in later days) ; Stewart Jones, one of a prominent Brockville family of that name ; and W. K. Cornish, father of Mayor Frank Cornish.

London in 1830 may be described by a quotation from a book entitled "The Canadas," published by Andrew Picken, in England, 1832, compiled chiefly from notes by John Galt, the Canada Company's general manager. He says : "The town is quite new, not containing above 40 or 50 houses, all of bright boards and shingles. The streets and gardens are full of black stumps." At this time the population did not exceed 200, but was rapidly increasing.

Perhaps one of the most prominent arrivals after the court house was built was John Scatcherd, from Wyton,

England ; a tall, burly man, who came to Nissouri in 1820, but removed to London in 1830. He opened a store on the north side of Dundas Street, east of Ridout, and was the first merchant to sell hardware. After 1835 he returned to Nissouri, became warden of the county and a member of Parliament. His son, Thomas, became a leading citizen of London, a lawyer, and member for North Middlesex.

Scatcherd's brother-in-law, James Farley, an Irishman from Armagh, came to London with him as a partner in his business. He continued the business when Scatcherd left, removing the store, after a time, to the south side of Dundas, east of Clarence, about where Bennett's Theatre stands ; was on the school board and the village council ; studied law with his nephew, Thomas, and was appointed clerk of the peace for the new County of Elgin. He died in St. Thomas in 1875.

Another Irishman, Samuel Glass, came to Westminster in 1819, and settled in London in 1831 as a dealer in flour and grain. Two of his sons became noted citizens; David, member of Parliament for East Middlesex, and William, sheriff.

Lawrence Lawrason was born at Ancaster, August 10, 1803. His father was a U. E. Loyalist from New Jersey. At first clerking in the store of James Hamilton (afterwards sheriff of Middlesex), he subsequently removed with his father's family westward, and opened a store at Hall's Mills, and there a post office was opened. In 1832 he came to London and joined Mr. Goodhue in business. He was an active supporter of the Family Compact, an officer of the local militia, a well-known magistrate, and for a couple of years member of Parliament. In 1847 he built for a residence a large brick house, which now forms the nucleus of the Sacred Heart Academy. He became very wealthy, but subsequently lost the greater part of his property. He was appointed the first police magistrate of London in 1865, an office which he held until his death, August 14th, 1882. His wife was a daughter of William H. Lee. One surviving child is Mrs. E. Baynes Reid, of Victoria, B.C.

Joseph Webster, who came in 1831, was the first man to open a tailor shop. For many years he carried on a business, which became quite extensive, about where the Parisian Laundry now is on Dundas.

Donald McPherson, a Scotch farmer from Adelaide, settled himself in London in 1832, building a house on Ridout Street. His daughter, the widow of Mr. Gunn, is still living here.

In the earliest days of London there were no regular religious services here. Rev. James Campian, of Niagara, celebrated mass in Dennis O'Brien's house in 1827—probably the first clergyman to visit the settlement—while Rev. E. Boswell, of the Church of England in St. Thomas, held service here in 1829.

In 1832 a number of discharged British soldiers were sent out to Adelaide Township. With them came some Irish gentlemen and their families—the Cursons, Blakes, Radcliffes, and others. In November of that year Rev. Benjamin Cronyn came from Ireland with his wife and two children. Their destination was Adelaide Township. But wearied with the long, rough ride, they stopped in London to rest at the Mansion House. On the Sunday he held service, and on Monday a deputation of church adherents urged him to remain, and he consented. Lots 21 and 22, on Dundas Street, being the north-west corner of Ridout and the adjacent lot, had been set apart for the use of the Anglican Church in the name of Bishop Stewart, and were being used as a burial ground, but services were held in the schoolhouse and elsewhere. It is said that steps were taken towards building a church here, but it was finally decided to go eastward, and the present site of St. Paul's was secured.

London Township had been made a circuit of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1823, with Robt. Carson in charge. Itinerant preachers of this body visited London as soon as there were any people here; and in 1833 a meeting-house was erected, a rough-cast building, on the south-west corner of Ridout and Carling Streets.

Though the population at this time would appear to have been too small to support a newspaper, yet an attempt at journalism was made in 1831 by E. A. Talbot. This gentleman was a son of Richard Talbot, who settled in London Township in 1818 with an Irish colony. He was a well-educated young man, who had written a book on Canada in 1824. "The London Sun," as he called his paper, shone for a couple of years, and then went down in darkness. After this failure, Talbot removed to Niagara, and issued a paper there, but he did not succeed. About

1838 he returned to London, in poor health, and poorer finances, with a large family to support. His Orange cronies—John O'Neil and others—helped him all they could; and in 1839 he tried journalism again, with the Freeman's Journal. But ill-fortune still attended him; his last venture failed, and he did not live long after it.

Freeman Talbot, a member of the same family, came into London as a very young lad, and has stated that he was engaged as a surveyor when the ground was being chained for the court house. He was well known in the early days; and died only a short time ago in Strathcarol, Manitoba.

But while London was getting some valuable additions to its population about this time, there were also some of an inferior character. Among the large number of emigrants coming into Canada from Britain some were of the poorer classes, who came out under very unsanitary conditions. As a result, epidemic diseases made their appearance in the summer of 1832 ; and London received its first serious setback.

The village was ill fitted to meet such a foe. Apparently it was in a very healthy situation. The court house and surrounding buildings were grouped together on the verge of a lofty plateau. Dundas Street, instead of sloping to the river as it now does, ended abruptly at the top of a high hill. Theoretically no better location could be desired. If Governor Simcoe had been able this year to repeat his visit from Detroit to London he would have been charmed with the sight. Coming up the river towards the forks, Malahide Castle, with its towers and turrets, clearly outlined against the summer sky, with the smaller houses grouped beneath the shelter of its walls; the clank of anvil and the thud of axe; the lowing of cattle and the hum of busy men in the market on the bluff, would have made him think his early visions had materialized, and that the capital of his Province was outstretched before him.

But—and there is always a but—the conditions were most unsanitary. There was no provision for drainage. The streets were of the most primitive description, without even ditches to carry off surplus water. There was a swamp on Richmond Street, between Queen's Avenue and Dundas. On the flats on the west and south-west boundaries of the village mud puddles gave off poisonous effluvia. Carling's Creek, as we now call it, was a stream large

enough to run Waters' mill at its mouth; but a big mill pond reached from Richmond Street west to Talbot, and in the summer drouths was very unhealthy, as these ponds usually are. A smaller and more sluggish stream ran between York and Bathurst. The wells were open, protected only by a curbing, the water being drawn by the old oaken bucket; while pigpens, cow sheds and other unsanitary concerns were usually near enough to let their sewage filter through the soil and contaminate the water.

So far as medical assistance was concerned, there was probably enough. Archibald Chisholm was the first physician in London. I have been unable to learn much of him, except that he was a young man, born near St. Thomas in 1795, and died in London on September 20th, 1830. His son Hiram was in business here for some years with L. Lawrason. More is known of Dr. Elam Stimson, who came from the United States in 1823, and took up his abode in London in 1828. He must have been here nearly as early as Dr. Chisholm. A tall man of fine presence, good education and great mental ability, he would have been one of London's leading citizens had he remained. But he lost his wife and younger child by cholera, and in 1833 he left the scene of his unpleasant experience and removed to St. George, where he died in 1869.

Col. Talbot, writing to his friend, Mr. Robinson, on the 8th July, 1832, says: "The weather last week has been very hot, and I am sorry to say that a few persons have died after a few hours' sickness, which the quacks pronounce as cholera." Doubtless he was thinking of Dr. Stimson, who, coming from the United States, would certainly be a quack in his eyes. However, he had hopes for the future, because he says: "Within the last week I have had an addition of two regular-bred physicians—Dr. Donnelly, of the navy, and Dr. Rolls, a very gentlemanly young man, who practiced in Old London for some years."

The quacks were right; there was no doubt the disease was cholera, and Dr. Donnelly himself fell a victim. I do not think Dr. Rolls came to London; at all events, we find him shortly after located in St. Thomas. Dr. H. D. Lee came to London about this time; was appointed Government medical officer in 1833; became a leading citizen, and died of typhus in 1847—taking the infection while looking after emigrants.

The cholera, as I have said, spread all over the country this summer. In London many were attacked and a num-

ber died—how many it is impossible to say, as there was no system of registration in those days. But it was a serious time, for the pest only subsided as the high summer temperature went down with the approach of winter.

The outbreak of the cholera, however, did not stop the influx of settlers in London. During the next two years valuable additions were made to the Forest Town. It would be impossible to mention all ; the names of many have been long forgotten and records of their lives have long since vanished. With some, however, we are more familiar, and a brief reference to these may be given.

John Jennings was a peripatetic merchant, who sold goods around the country ; he practically settled in London about 1832 or a little later. He had a distillery across the river from the Eldon House; a store near the corner of Dundas and Ridout, and kept a livery stable as well. He was a useful all-round citizen, and occupied important positions in later years.

Ed. Raymond was born in Buffalo, and settled here in 1832, and began business as a furrier in 1833. Mrs. Raymond, the daughter of Mr. Durant, a Congregational minister, was for many years principal music teacher and organist in town.

Geo. Watson, an Englishman, builder by trade, came in 1833; lived for many years on King Street, about the present No. 155, and died only a few years ago.

The year 1834 saw a large number of new arrivals ; among them were the following :

Henry Beltz, a native of the United States, was a bridge builder, and in partnership with one McPherson, had charge of nearly all of that kind of work after his arrival. His son, Edmund, learned the trade of furrier with Raymond ; began business in 1850, and held it until he died a few months ago.

J. W. Van Wormer, from the States, a turner by trade ; his wife, a daughter of Jailor Parke, was drowned while driving through the river at the foot of Ridout Street.

Leonard Perrin, also from across the border, originally a blacksmith, but became a baker, having his shop on Dundas Street, near the north-west corner of Talbot; had the contract for supplying troops with bread in later years,

and thus paved the way for one of the leading business concerns of our city to-day.

As the people began to increase in number, they gave evidence of energy and enterprise that their descendants have not equalled. They started to build a railroad. Even though they did not succeed at the time, it only showed that they had more courage than money.

The first railroad corporation in Canada seems to have been the Champlain and St. Lawrence Railroad Company, chartered in 1832—only a few years after the first locomotive was constructed in England by Stevenson. The object of the road seems to have been to connect Montreal with the nearest navigable water to New York; and in 1836 it commenced operations, running from St. John, near Montreal, to Laprairie. It was a wooden road, and operated by horse-power. It was the first link in the chain that afterwards became the Grand Trunk Railway.

London was a small place compared with Montreal, but it was going to have its railroad if it could. On March 6th, 1834, a company, called the London and Gore Railroad, was chartered by the Legislature of Upper Canada (4 Wm. IV., Chap. 29). The following persons were the incorporators: Edward Allan Talbot, Thomas Parke, George J. Goodhue, Allan Napier McNab, Colin Campbell Ferrie, John McFarlane, Wm. Robertson, Thomas Gibbens, Lawrence Lawrason, Dennis O'Brien, John Scatcherd, Jas. Hamilton, Joseph Cowley, Nicholas Gaffeny, Joseph L. O'Dell, John O'Neil, James Farley, John Jennings, Harvey Shepherd, John Kent, Albert S. O'Dell, Henry Shennick, Hiram D. Lee, William E. Lee, Burley Hunt, Nathan Griffith, Andrew Drew, Robert Alway, Peter Carroll, Charles Duncombe, Thomas Horner, Oliver Turner, E. A. Spalding, Geo. W. Whitehead, Peter Bamberger, Manuel Overfiled, James McFarlane, James Bell Ewart, Thomas J. Horner, Joseph Grier, G. W. Bremyer, Nathan Jacobs, Charles Goulding, Thomas D. Howard, Thomas J. Jones, James Ingersoll, John Young, John Wier, A. McDonnell, William Bull Sheldon, Ebenezer Stinson, Samuel Mills, Peter Hunter Hamilton, Abraham K. Smith, Joseph Holestone, Thos. Taylor, Henry Carrol, Calvin Martin, James Ritchie, E. Jackson, Jedediah Jackson, Welcome Yale, Luke V. Soper, Ira Schofield, Mahlon Burwell, Andrew Miller, David Archibald McNab, William Notman, Matthew Crooks, Oliver Tiffany, Plumer Burley, George T. Tiffany, Edward Vanderlip,

Oliver G. Tiffany, William Case, A. Smith, John Law and Miles O'Reilly.

More than half of these people came from London and immediate vicinity, the others from Hamilton and intermediate points. The Londoners, however, were the leaders in the movement. The company received authority to construct a road of wood or iron, commencing at London and extending first to Burlington Bay, and then westward to the navigable waters of the Thames and Lake Huron. It may be noted that early railroads were looked upon simply as portages to connect navigable waters. All the first roads chartered in Canada were of this description. London was made the headquarters, and the first meeting was appointed to be held in this town on the first Monday of April, 1834, providing £25,000 of stock had been subscribed. If not, then a special meeting was to be called whenever that amount was subscribed. The limit of stock was fixed at £100,000, issued in 3,000 shares of £12 10s. each. This amount to be doubled when construction from London commenced westward.

Government ownership of railroads was evidently looked upon by some people as a possibility, for by clause 22 of this act, power was taken for the Government after 40 years, to buy out the company at 20 per cent. premium, providing the road had been paying a dividend of 12 per cent.

The promoters of this company found some difficulty in getting money, and the preliminary meeting for organization was not held until June, 1835, when a number of the shareholders met at "O'Neill's Inn," or the Mansion House, situated on Dundas Street, about where Perrin's biscuit factory now is. Thomas Cronyn was chairman, and Wm. Robinson, secretary. It was found that many of the subscription lists that had been issued were not in, and it was impossible to tell who were the shareholders to any great extent. Those present, however, proceeded to organize, and elected seven directors, the understanding being that several of these would make way for others, so that the board would be fairly representative of the different localities in which other shareholders resided. Difficulties still continuing in the way of obtaining the money, the directors of the company approached the Legislature again, and obtained an amended act on March 6th, 1837 (7 Wm. IV., Chap. 61). This act changed the title of the road to Great Western

Railroad Company, increased the stock to £500,000, and made provision for a Government loan equal to three times the amount subscribed—the loan not to commence until £1,250 of stock had been taken up, and the maximum of the loan not to exceed £200,000.

Authority was also given the Canada Company to connect Goderich with this line. The Niagara and Detroit Rivers Company had been organized a short time before, and it was also given authority to connect with the Great Western. In order to protect the Government in its loan, provision was taken by another act at the same session (7 Wm. IV., Chap. 62), to levy a tax on the districts of Gore, London and Western, in order to make up any deficit in the interest on the debentures issued by the Government for the purpose of assisting the railway. However, with all the help offered by the Government, this enterprise seemed to have been too big a scheme for the promoters to handle. The money was not forthcoming, and the enterprise lapsed.

But the Gore was not the only railway enterprise started in London about this time. A man named Henry Dalley introduced a scheme for a road from London to Detroit. He was a genial, plausible man, a type of the class of promoters. He interested a number of people, especially in the country districts; collected considerable money; and sent out surveying parties. Some work was evidently done, for the first engineers engaged in locating the Canada Southern Railway in after years, found the marks of his surveys. Whether or not Dalley really intended to build the railway, is, of course, uncertain. But the enterprise fell through, with disastrous consequences to those who had trusted him. One of these was Wm. Huggins, a West Indian planter, who came to Yarmouth in 1833, but removed to London a few years later. He brought suit against Dalley and got judgment—but no money. So complete was his financial loss that he worked for a time as a laborer at the building of the Barracks; he failed in health, and, after a long illness, died in 1851. Dalley meanwhile went to New York and made a fortune in selling patent medicines. In his prosperity he remembered his less fortunate associates, and sent Huggins a good supply of Dalley's salve.

About this time the growing importance of London was recognized by the Provincial authorities, and it was con-

stituted an electoral division. The census showed the population to be slightly over 1,000. Previously it had been part of the county, which returned two members. The first election was held in 1836—candidates being Mahlon Burwell and Jno. Scatchard. Freeman Talbot is my authority for saying that the vote was a tie—37 for each; the returning officer, being an appointee of the Government, did his duty by voting for the Government candidate. The total vote cast seems very small to us; but it must be remembered that none could vote but property holders who had their patent from the crown, or had the deeds for their land duly executed, and the fee for a crown deed was £8. Great numbers of the early settlers simply had their names entered on Col. Talbot's map, and while this secured them their lots, it did not give them a clear title under which they could vote. It was evident, however, that this election was closely contested. In politics, London seems to have been ready to put up a good fight from the very first day it got the chance.

London was now beginning to attract attention. Its people had shown a degree of public spirit in railroad matters, greater in proportion to population than any place in Canada. A branch of the Bank of Upper Canada was opened in 1835, on the corner of King and Ridout Streets, with Richard Richardson, manager. Travellers passing through the country helped to advertise the town. Sometimes the picture drawn by the visitor was not very flattering. Mrs. Jamieson, wife of the Vice-Chancellor of the Province, was one of those who did not see much beauty in the little village, according to her description in her "Summer Rambles and Winter Studies."

In 1837 she passed through this section on a visit to Col. Talbot, and remaining over a day at the hotel, she took a walk through the village. She says: "It now contains more than 200 frame or brick houses; and there are many more building. The court house seemed the glory of the townspeople. As for the style of architecture, I may not attempt to describe it, but a gentleman informed me, in rather equivocal phrase, that it was 'somewhat Gothic.' There are five places of worship for the Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Methodist, Roman Catholic and Baptist. The church is handsome. There are also three or four schools, and seven taverns. The Thames is very beautiful here; and navigable for boats and barges.

"The population consists principally of artisans—and blacksmiths, carpenters and builders are flourishing. There is, I fear, a good deal of drunkenness and profligacy; for though the people have work and wealth, they have neither education nor amusements. Besides the seven taverns, there is a number of little grocery stores, which are, in fact, drinking houses. And though a law exists which forbids the sale of spirituous liquor in small quantities by any but licensed publicans, they easily contrive to evade the law.

"The Government should be more careful in the choice of district magistrates. While I was in London a person who had acted in this capacity was carried from the pavement dead drunk.

"I find the women in the better class lamenting over the want of all society except in the lowest grades, in manners and morals. For those who have recently emigrated and are settled in the interior, there is absolutely no social intercourse whatsoever."

But the superficial observations of this versatile and volatile Irish lady, as she flitted over the country, are not to be taken too seriously. The defects that she noticed were common to the times, and were no worse in London than in Toronto. No doubt, however, there was some justice in her opinion that lack of legitimate and innocent amusements seriously affected the moral tone of the early settlers.

During the years 1834 to 1839 there were some notable additions to our citizenship, of whom a few may be mentioned:

Murray Anderson was born at Lundy's Lane, the ground on which the battle was fought having been the property of his father. Learning the trade of a tinsmith, he came to London in 1835, and lived here for a year or two, then went home; but he returned and took up his trade and became a permanent resident. He opened a tin and stove store on Dundas Street, about where Perrin's factory is, and in later years established a foundry on the south-west corner of Dundas and Adelaide Streets. He took a prominent part in public affairs, and was the first mayor of the City of London in 1855. He died here March 5th, 1898.

Wm. Barker came here from Nottingham, England, in 1835. He was a man of superior education, and especially noted as a student of astronomy. He had charge of the business of General Renwick, who owned considerable real estate in this locality. From the very first he became a leading citizen, and was for many years a member of various municipal bodies. He built Mount Hope, on the north end of Richmond Street, the cupola on which made a very good observatory. He was the principal organizer of our first gas company. His son is a member of Parliament for Hamilton.

The principal lawyer at this period was John Wilson, born in Paisley, Scotland, in 1809. He came to Canada as a boy, worked on a farm in Lanark, then studied law, and in 1834 settled in London. He at once obtained a lucrative practice, for with his thorough knowledge of law, he possessed a shrewd common sense; a free and easy oratory, and a warm sympathy for the unfortunate. His office was a school for many who afterwards became prominent lawyers.

Among these was H. C. R. Becher, who came here in 1836; a cultured young Englishman of good family, who entered Wilson's office as a student, and when he left it to practice his profession he was well equipped for the work. These two men were the leaders of the bar in London for many years.

As a young lad I had occasion to see them frequently in the fifties. They were men in marked contrast. Wilson was burly, with coarse, ruddy features, careless in dress, offhand in manner, sometimes rude in speech. Becher was tall and slim, with sallow complexion, gentlemanly in appearance, smooth spoken and courteous. Both were prominent in public affairs, but with unequal success. Wilson represented London in Parliament, where he took a very active part, and finally finished his career on the bench.

Becher was defeated by Morrill when he ran for mayor, and by E. Leonard for Parliament ; his only public office was a seat on the village council.

D. J. Hughes, from Devonshire, England, came to Montreal in 1832, where his father died. Adopted by a friend of the family, he came to London in 1835; studied law in John Wilson's office. After being called to the bar, he moved to Woodstock in 1842, returning to London in 1847, entering into partnership with Wilson, who had married his

sister. In 1853 he was appointed first county judge of Elgin; held that office for 50 years, and still resides in St. Thomas, at the advanced age of 90. His recollection of men and things in the early days has been of material service in the preparation of this sketch.

Capt. John Moore, of the 30th Regiment, retired from service and took up his residence in London, near the site of the present gas house, in 1834. His son, Charles, entered into partnership with Richard Smith and E. S. Lyman, as general merchants, including in their stock a good supply of drugs. Possibly this latter fact may have turned his attention to medicine, for when Dr. A. Anderson settled here in 1837, and married a daughter of Capt. Moore, Charles entered his brother-in-law's office, and after graduation followed his profession here till his death, leaving his son to succeed him.

Dr. Anderson purchased the Goodhue house, near the site of the present Sandringham apartments. He subsequently built Walmington house across the street. Here his widow still lives.

In 1835 a young English chemist, John Salter, was employed in Smith & Moore's store to look after the drug department, but two years later he commenced business for himself as a druggist and physician opposite the court house. Dr. Salter was well known for many years; he was a highly-educated man, and a prominent contributor to the local press.

James Givens commenced practicing law in St. Thomas, but in 1835 he was appointed solicitor for the Bank of Upper Canada, and removed to London, and became prominent in municipal affairs and legal circles. He built the long low house on the river bank, near the York Street bridge, which is still standing. He was subsequently appointed county judge.

Alexander Mackenzie, born in Indiana, of Highland Scotch parentage, came to Canada when a young man, practicing medicine in St. Thomas for a time. When a batallion was raised in London in 1838, he was appointed a surgeon, and came here, where he resided until his death a few years ago.

Simeon Morrill came from the United States and obtained three lots on the south-eastern corner of York and Ridout Streets. He operated a large tannery, together

with the manufacture of shoes. He was the first employer of labor in London on anything like an extensive scale, and always paid his wages in cash, something very unusual in those days. He was further noted as the pioneer prohibitionist in this city. But though temperance was not popular, he commanded unusual respect from the people, and was repeatedly elected to municipal positions.

John Smythe, from England, was a soldier in the 95th Regiment, and fought under Wellington at Waterloo. He came to London in 1838, and was first a merchant, subsequently opening the Waterloo Hotel on Richmond Street, for many years a local landmark. He was a pioneer in the volunteer movement, and was, I believe, captain of the first rifle company organized in the district. His sons have both been well known as good citizens and enthusiastic military men.

Elijah Leonard was born in Syracuse, N.Y., September 10th, 1814, and learned the iron-foundry business with his father. The family removed to Canada in 1830, the father taking charge of a furnace in the Long Point district, at what is now known as Normandale. Here bog iron was found, and worked up extensively. In 1834 Mr. Leonard started a foundry in St. Thomas; and in 1838 removed to London, where he commenced the business now known by the name of "E. Leonard & Sons." The first foundry was on Ridout Street, near Fullarton. Mr. Leonard was mayor of London in 1857, and in 1862 was elected to the Legislative Council of Canada for the Malahide Division. At confederation he was appointed a Senator for the Dominion, serving until his death in London, May 14th, 1891.

I can only mention by name a few more of the pioneers of that period : Thos. Moore, a tall Irish doctor ; Hugh Stevenson, a Scotch Presbyterian, who kept a small hotel on Ridout Street ; Frank and William Pope, Englishmen, builders; S. McBride, tinsmith; Thomas Campbell, builder; John Holden, stonemason ; William Balkwill, Englishman, who took over Flannigan's Hotel (where the City Hotel is now)—the Hope Hotel it was then called; and his brother, John, who started a brewery, subsequently operated by Eccles & Labatt, and now known as Labatt's Brewery ; Thomas Hiscox, an English farmer, who was despatch bearer for the Government, conducted a freight and passenger stage, carried mails, and kept a hotel; William Elliott, a lawyer, and subsequently county judge, a highly educated

gentleman, interested alike in law, literature, education and politics.

These were only a few of our pioneers who deserve honorable mention. They were not perfect men ; many of them had their faults—they could drink and fight—but they were strong men, with energy and enthusiasm, which their successors may well envy. Their virtues were their own ; their vices and follies were those of the time. But they did good work for the little village they founded in the forest, and we have no cause for shame when we recall their names.

The troublous times of 1837-38 affected London to some extent, though less than other localities. Our historians, so far, are still somewhat too partisan in their views of the actors in what is usually spoken of as "the rebellion;" and the Conservatives and Liberals of to-day, inheriting the traditions of their political ancestors, are still inclined to view the past with eyes that can only distinguish black and white, but not the more neutral shades. As a matter of fact, the Tories and Reformers of rebellion times were neither so entirely black, nor so entirely white, as they have been painted. Many of the prominent pioneers of Upper Canada—U. E. Loyalists, as they are called—brought with them from the United States that ultra loyalty in which the recollection of personal injuries inflicted by the victorious republicans was a prominent factor. They were, of course, really loyal to Britain; but many of them would have submitted to the altered form of government had they not been persecuted by the people of the United States, who confiscated the property and imperilled the lives of their Tory fellow-citizens. No wonder that when the latter came to Canada they brought with them, not only their British loyalty, but an intense dislike for, and distrust of, the people and the institutions they had left behind. Any movement in favor of civil or religious freedom, was, in their eyes, a step towards rebellion and annexation. Whoever desired any change from the established order of things was a prospective if not an actual rebel. As they themselves (or, at least, their leaders) were the prominent men of the Province, and the friends and counsellors of each successive governor, with excellent opportunities for acquiring offices and appropriating lands, they naturally considered the general situation perfectly satisfactory. The faults of which others complained were not so apparent to them ; and they might be pardoned if they heard the voice

of the detested Yankee in every complaint that was uttered.

But the demand for reform was certainly justified. There was no government of the people in the interests of the people. Municipal institutions were unknown. Nominally the Legislature ruled everything; but in fact the popular chamber was powerless. The Governor or his Council could, and frequently did, ignore the acts of the Assembly. At first the settlers outside of the little towns were too busy on their farms, striving to conquer the forest, utilize the soil, and secure a means of sustenance, to agitate for reforms, or struggle for political freedom. But this could not last. Agitation was sure to come. It came with Gourlay in 1817—as true a loyalist as any Tory of his day. They crushed him, and drove him out of Canada. Other agitators followed ; Mackenzie, Rolph, Duncombe and their associates renewed the fight, and made their voices heard in the press and in the Legislature.

There is not the slightest doubt that the great majority of the reformers were loyal men, who simply desired to cure some of the political evils that were retarding the progress of the country. But their opponents gave them credit for no sort of virtue. Ostracised, vilified, persecuted and prosecuted, it is no wonder that chagrin, anger, and despair of better things seemed to drive them into actual rebellion.

The leader of the rebels in the western part of the Province was Dr. Charles Duncombe. A native of the United States, he settled in Burford shortly after the war of 1812, and received a license to practice medicine in 1819. He soon became a prominent man in the community. He was appointed a member of the Provincial Medical Board in 1832, and in 1834 was elected to the Legislature. He was one of the first to seek improvements in education, and with Doctors T. D. Morrison and Wm. Bruce, was appointed on a commission to inspect the condition of schools and colleges. Dr. Hodgins, in his "Educational System of Ontario," says : "The year 1836 is noted in our educational history for the efforts put forth under the direction of the Legislature by a trio of doctors (Duncombe, Morrison and Bruce) to inspect and improve our common school system. They brought in an elaborate report, and appended to it a voluminous bill, in which it was proposed to grant $60,000 per annum for the support of these schools." Of course the report got no further than the Assembly at that time.

The same year Duncombe went to England with a petition to the Imperial Government in the interests of political reform. On his return, when it was found that no remedy was likely to be provided, being in sympathy with the reformers, when their plans had been matured in Toronto for an armed outbreak, he was urged by Mackenzie to lead the movement in the west. He reluctantly consented—recognizing the difficulties in the way and the doubtful prospects. Communicating with his radical associates in Oxford, Middlesex and Norfolk, he endeavored to organize the forces of dissent. But the majority of them, so far as the London district was concerned, held aloof, and failure was assured from the beginning. Most of the people in the Town of London and the township were supporters of the Government, and the few who sympathized with the reformers were not prepared for actual rebellion. In the southern townships of Westminster, Yarmouth and Southwold, the Reformers were in the majority; but even of these very few favored rebellion. It is doubtful if Duncombe ever had as many as 300 under his command, and they disbanded and dispersed as the militia approached.

Duncombe escaped. For a month he lay concealed in the house of his sister, Mrs. Schennick, about a mile south of London. As the vigilance of the militia abated, his friend, Chas. Tilden, living near Amherstburg, visited him in his hiding place and proposed that he should attempt to leave the country in the disguise of a woman—a disguise which his smooth round face and slight build rendered feasible. They started in the depth of winter (January, 1838), stopped over night at the house of a friend on Hitchcock Street, London (now Maple Street), and pursuing their journey next day arrived safely at their destination, crossing the river at Marine City, Mich.

The Conservative element of London was intent on suppressing dissent. John O'Neil headed an Orange brigade to drive out to wherever a meeting of Reformers was held and break it up if possible. Lawrence Lawrason and Col. Burwell were also leaders in these raids. But on one occasion at Nixon's, in Westminster, the so-called rebels were prepared for them, and they had to retreat in disorder. Then, of course, they called on the authorities for aid. Sheriff Hamilton was loyal enough; but he seems to have been lacking in enthusiasm, or doubtful of the wisdom of pursuing men who had committed no act of rebellion; or, as some thought, he was constitutionally timid. At all

events, he had to be spurred on—even to the extent of threatening him with the anger of the Government.

Harris, Askin, Lawrason, and their associates, did the spurring effectively. Between them all they induced the sheriff to call out the militia and pursue the rebels ; large numbers were captured and imprisoned—including men who were not rebels at all. They scoured the country and arrested people on suspicion alone. London jail, which then consisted of some damp, dismal cells, under the court house, was crowded. At one time not less than forty political prisoners were huddled together in this mediaeval dungeon. The wholesale and indiscriminate arrests may be judged by the following fact : In Lindsay's "Life of Mackenzie" there is given a list of names of those taken into custody as rebels in the London district prior to the final invasion from Michigan in 1838. Out of 164 so arrested, 97 were discharged by the magistrates without trial ; of the remainder who went to trial, 28 were either proven innocent or discharged by the judge ; 7 only were convicted and banished. Some few were liberated on bail. Seven guilty men out of 164 arrests showed that the greater number were taken on suspicion alone. Only one—Alvira Ladd, Dennis O'Brien's brother-in-law, was condemned to death; but he was subsequently pardoned.

But while these prisoners escaped with their lives, the fate of some were painful enough. Of the number who were gathered up from the southern townships, many, as I have already said, were simply arrested on suspicion. The bulk of the population consisted of loyal Scotchmen (with the exception of a few who had come in from the United States), who wanted neither independence nor annexation—only reform. But that did not free them from pains and penalties. Let me give a specimen case :

John Grieve was born in Roxboroughshire, Scotland, in 1808. When eight years old he came out with his father, who settled on the third concession of Westminster. Here John married and established his home ; an honorable and religious man, and a good citizen, but like his neighbors, an advocate of political reform. He never joined the insurgents, nor took up arms, but at a logging bee one day he spoke strongly against the evil courses of the ruling powers. That was enough to bring him under suspicion. His language was reported, and Capt. Robson, of London Township, drove out with a constable and arrested him.

He was turned into prison with the rest of the suspects. Here for six months he lay, awaiting trial. I have seen a letter he wrote his wife, under date of January 4th, 1838, an old time-worn sheet, yellow with age; but the ink as black and the writing as distinct as though written yesterday. And so he said to his wife, dating his letter from London jail, January 4th, 1838 :

My Dear Wife :

I am informed by the magistrate that I, with other prisoners, will be taken to Toronto immediately; the handcuffs are now a-making for us, and we expect to start tomorrow. I do not know for what purpose they are taking us; but I was told by Mr. Lawrason that we would probably be tried before we were brought back. I have no idea when that time will be; but do not be disheartened my dear Jane, but trust to a kind Providence who ordereth all things well, that we will again enjoy domestic happiness together. My heart is with you though I be far away. Little Ann, poor thing, will forget me; but you will mention me sometimes to her. Above all, as soon as she is capable of understanding anything, speak to her of her Heavenly Father. Remember while I am gone there is a double duty devolves upon you.

(Private affairs follow. Nothing about politics, of course, save indirectly in his closing words) :

I wish that all my friends at this critical juncture may take good heed to their way, and walk strictly according to that which they consider their duty.

And so he signs himself,

Your affectionate husband,

JOHN GRIEVE.

At his trial nothing could be proved, and he was discharged. But his health had broken down under confinement. Gray-haired and feeble, an old man while still in his youth, he went to his home and died in less than two months.

By 1838 the rebellion appeared to have been totally quelled. A couple of the leaders had been executed in Toronto; but Mackenzie, Duncombe, and their associates, had escaped to the United States. The colonists had shown their loyalty in no uncertain manner, and common sense should have taught the most recalcitrant radical that armed resistance to the British crown was both futile and foolish.

But some of the exiled Canadians, with their sympathizers in the States, kept up a continual agitation. A society for the deliverance of Canada was formed. Subordinate branches, termed "Hunter's Lodges," were organized. Probably from 15,000 to 20,000 people were connected with this scheme. Plenty of money was provided by friends of the movement, and preparations for the invasion of Canada were made, with the connivance of the authorities of the United States.

The threat of invasion was promptly met by the Canadians, and militia regiments (partly volunteers and partly drafted) were organized. London was not backward in this instance. A battalion of four companies (two from London, and one each from Bayham and Yarmouth) formed the "Home Guard." Fortunately, they were not required to leave home. A British officer, Capt. Thos. H. Ball, was given command. The other officers from London were :

Captains—John Wilson and William McMillan.
Lieutenants—H. C. R. Becher and John Jennings.
Ensigns—Sterne Ball and Thomas Ball.
Paymaster—William Robertson.
Adjutant—Ross Robertson.
Surgeon—Dr. McKenzie.
Quartermaster—Freeman Talbot.

The men were enlisted for eighteen months; but were discharged before the time expired.

The invasion of the Americans was confined to two raids—one at Prescott and the other at Windsor—both of which were disastrous failures. The raiders were promptly dispersed, many of them captured, and their leaders summarily executed. At Windsor the raid was marked by heartless brutality and serious damage to the property of the unresisting Canadians. But justice was swift and stern. Four of the prisoners at Windsor were shot by orders of Col. Prince, and the remainder were sent to London for trial.

These men were not brought before the ordinary courts, but were tried by a court martial appointed by the Government for that purpose, and consisting of Col. Bostwick, President ; Col. Perley and Geo. W. Whitehead, of Burford ; Major Barwick, of Blandford ; Col. James Ingersoll, and Major Beale, of Woodstock, judge advocate. The court sat in London from December 23rd, 1838, to January 19th,

1839. There were 44 prisoners placed on trial, and all found guilty except one. Only a comparatively small number, however, were executed ; the majority were either banished or pardoned.

As to the persons who met their fate at the hands of the law in London, historians are not in harmony. Kingsford, Dent and most writers say there were seven, though their names are not all given. Judge Ermatinger, in his "Talbot Regime," gives five by name. Some of the older citizens with whom I have spoken are positive there were nine. The most reliable information I have been able to obtain is from the records of the court martial in the Canadian archives. From there we learn that six were executed in London. They were the following :

Hiram Bing Lynn, aged 26, from the United States; on January 7th, 1839.

Daniel Davis, Bedford, aged 27, from Kippen, Canada ; on January 11th.

Albert Clarke, aged 21, from the United States; January 14th.

Cornelius Cunningham, aged 32, from the United States; February 4th.

Joshua Gilliam Doane, from Upper Canada, and

Amos Perley, from New Brunswick, on February 6th.

The following were transported : Samuel Snow, Elizur Stevens, J. Burwell Tyrrel, John Seymore Guttridge, James Milne Aitchison, John Sprague, Robert Marsh, Oliver Crandall, Riley Monson Stewart, Henry V. Barnum, Alvin B. Sweet, James Peter Williams, Wm. Nottage, John Henry Simmons, Elijah C. Woodman, Chauncey Sheldon, James Dewitt Jerro, Michael Morin.

The following were subsequently discharged : Robt. Whitney, Orin J. S. Mabee, Joseph Grason, Stephen Meadow, Harrison P. Goodrich, John Charter Williams, Daniel Kennedy, Joseph Horton, Ezra Horton, Cornelius Higgins, Charles Reed, David Hay, Wm. Jones, Israel Gibbs Attwood, David McDougall, Geo. Putnam, Wm. Bartlett and Sydney Barber.

Trueman Woodbury was ordered to be discharged, but before the order arrived he had escaped—apparently the only one of the number who was able to elude the vigilance of his jailer.

The solitary acquittal was Abraham Tiffany. The ages of 29 of the 44 persons are given. Of these, 10 were 20 years and under—one being only 15 years old ; 10 were between 20 and 30 years of age; 6 between 30 and 40; and only three over 40. Nothing shows more clearly the fact that many of the active rebels were only boys, who had no conception of the serious nature of their conduct.

It may be of interest to read the terms of the death warrant ordering the execution of the condemned men :

" Government House, January 29th, 1837.

" James Hamilton, Esq., Sheriff, London District, London :

" Sir,—I have the honor to transmit to you, by command of the Lieutenant-Governor, three warrants for the execution, respectively, at London, of Cornelius Cunningham (on Monday, February 4th), Joshua Gilliam Doane and Amos Perley (on Wednesday, the 6th), pursuant to the sentence of the court-martial therein stated. His Excellency directs that the warrant be publicly read before the prisoners at the time and place of their execution. You will, moreover, have the goodness to acknowledge their receipt by the first post, in order to obviate the necessity of transmitting to you the exemplification usually forwarded in cases like the present. I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

" M. MACAULAY."

Misguided and mistaken these men may have been, but some of them, at least, met their end as brave men should.

John Davidson, a farmer in Stanley Township, driving into town in January, 1839, overtook a lady walking into London, and gave her a ride in his sleigh. At the hotel where he stopped the hostler found a letter in the sleigh, which, it is supposed, was dropped by this lady. It was written by Joshua Doane to his wife. Now that all parties have left this earthly scene and the letter has no personal interest, it may be given as an incidental record of the past :

London, January 27th, 1839.

Dear Wife,—I am at this moment confined in the cell from which I am to go to the scaffold. I received my sentence to-day, and am to be executed on February 6th. I am permitted to see you to-morrow, any time after 10 o'clock in the morning, as may suit you best. I wish you to think of such questions as you wish to ask me, as I do

not know how long you will be permitted to stay. Think as little of my unhappy fate as you can; as from the love you bear me, I know too well how it must affect you. I wish you to inform my father and brother of my sentence as soon as possible. I must say good-bye for the night, and may God protect you and my dear child, and give you fortitude to meet that coming event with the Christian grace and fortitude which is the gift of Him, our Lord, who created us. That this may be the case, is the prayer of your affectionate husband, JOSHUA G. DOANE.

So, whether on the scaffold, or in the cell, or on the sick-bed, or in exile, the rebels and their sympathizers passed away ; and the black hand of the executioner dropped the curtain on the last act of the tragic drama of 1837.

The close of the rebellion saw the beginning of a new era in London's progress. It was made a garrison town. The regiments quartered in the London Garrison were : The 32nd and 83rd, from 1838 to 1841; the 1st Royals (Col. Wetherall) and the 14th, 1841 to 1843; 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 1843 to 1845; 82nd, 1845 to 1846; 81st, 1846 to 1847; 20th (Col. Horne), 1847 to 1849; and the 23rd a second time in 1849, remaining till the troops were withdrawn in 1852. There was, also, always a battery of artillery forming part of the garrison.*

There had previously been no garrison in this section of the Province, and when the military were required they had to be marched from a distance. The authorities now thought a different arrangement desirable. Col. Talbot's interest in St. Thomas might have been supposed sufficient to secure the garrison for that town. And, in fact, during the rebellion, the Thirty-fourth Regiment, under Col. Airey (Talbot's nephew) was stationed there. The regiment was first lodged in a wooden barracks, which was subsequently burned ; and it then found quarters in an old Methodist church. Had St. Thomas shown any disposition to provide accommodation for the garrison, it might have been permanently located there. In default of this, however, London was selected. A large tract of land was reserved for the purpose, bounded on the west by St. Paul's Church property, south by Dufferin Avenue, east by Waterloo Street,

*I am indebted for this record of the garrison troops to Major Gorman, of Sarnia, whose father was Librarian of the 23rd.

and north by a line a little below Piccadilly Street. Subsequently there was quite a dispute between the town and the garrison over the portion now called Park Avenue. This had been closed up from the time the barracks was built, but the town claimed that the street must be opened, and had to open it almost by force of arms. Civil and military forces faced each other, the troops actually firing on the citizens, though with blank cartridges. But the civil power prevailed in the end.

The Government appropriated $150,000 for the erection of a barracks. This consisted of long rows of two-story frame buildings, extending east and west, on the north part of the reserve, and north and south on the east side. The south-western part was utilized as a parade ground. The barracks proper was surrounded by a stockade—two rows of posts placed close to each other, with holes through which the guns of the garrison could meet the attacking forces. The parade ground was closed in with a stump fence, the roots of the stumps facing outward.

The principal contractor was Ed. Matthews. He was an Englishman, who came to London in 1835, and took the leading place in town as a builder. He resided in a frame house on the north-east corner of Dundas and Richmond Streets, the shop being behind the house. His son-in-law, Pomeroy, was his manager, and also had a sawmill in Dorchester, floating his lumber down the river to London. Matthews subsequently committed suicide. One of the subcontractors was John Stewart, who came from the North of Ireland in 1837. His son, Samuel, was well known as a local tinsmith in later years.

In January, 1838, the Thirty-second Regiment, Col. Maitland, was sent to the new garrison. The men were quartered in O'Brien's unfinished brick building, while the barracks was under completion; some being accommodated in temporary tents erected on the eastern side of the reserves. Most of the officers were billeted in private houses, in one of which Col. Maitland died shortly after.

Col. Horne's name became identified with the city for many years. There was a big hill on the northern part of the reserve, between Pall Mall and Hyman Streets. This he cut down, and formed an embankment around a large reservoir supplied by the creek. This bore the name of Lake Horne, and for many years was the center of attraction for the citizens on the Queen's Birthday. Games of

all kinds, boating, walking a greasy pole stretched across the water, and various other sports, supplied the amusements with which to celebrate the day. All that remains now of Lake Horne is the low plot south of the C.P.R. station.

The garrison not only benefited the town by the addition to business of all kinds resulting from the building of the barracks, and the maintenance of the troops, but it gave a decided impetus to social life. In the early days of the village the people had few amusements. For the women there were occasional gatherings in the church, a visit, and tea with a neighbor; sometimes a quilting bee; perhaps a dance once in a while. But most of them had enough to do in attending to their housework; and social functions were on a very limited scale.

The men certainly found more time for dissipation than the women, and it took the form of drinking whiskey. Hotels, so-called, were numerous; two or three at every crossroad, and several in the block. It was the same in the country as in the town. On the Goderich road, some 65 miles in length, there were in 1840 just 40 taverns. Everywhere could be seen the peculiar tavern sign, a post 15 to 20 feet high; on the top a frame four or five feet square, and inside the frame, swinging from the upper bar, the square sign, with its special device illustrating the name of the establishment. The Hope Hotel, on the corner of Talbot and Dundas Streets, with its graceful figure resting against an anchor, and gazing eagerly into far-off space; the Rob Roy, on Dundas and Richmond Streets, with the kilted Highlander; the Prince of Orange, on Dundas and Clarence, with the figure of that noted gentleman on his white horse, his sword pointing out the fleeing Jacobites; and so on. These old tavern signs, once so familiar, are now seen no more, and the taverns are fast following the signs into oblivion.

Distilleries also were numerous in those days. Prominent citizens, like Major Schofield, O'Brien, Goodhue, and others, manufactured whiskey and sold it cheap, sometimes as low as 25 cents a gallon.

I have quoted previously Mrs. Jamieson's description of social life, summed up in the words: "A good deal of drunkenness and profligacy." We must admit the drunkenness. It was a fashionable folly. If she heard of a cer-

tain magistrate being picked up in the street "dead drunk," he was no worse than the old-time statesmen of England or the United States, who have been known, after finishing up a banquet, to sleep off the effects of it on the dining-room floor. Commissioner Jones, of the Canada Company at Goderich, being asked if a certain person was not drunk at his house, answered: "Upon my life, I don't know. I never saw a man drunk at my house. I'm always drunk first myself." Total abstinence was at a discount. There were some few abstainers, and some temperance societies, but they were not popular. Col. Talbot, in a notable speech to his neighbors on St. George's Day, 1832, could not find stronger language in which to condemn the radicals of the time than by declaring that they had "commenced their work of darkness under cover of organized damned cold-water drinking societies." And it is said that the Colonel, as the patriarch of his settlement, used to summon all his neighbors to his house on Sundays, where he read the Church service for their benefit, while to ensure their prompt attendance at prayers, the whiskey was passed around after the benediction.

It is not likely that the advent of the military discouraged the drinking customs of the early Londoners; but it gave a stimulus to society life that was perhaps needed. Sports of all kinds were organized; horse-races, cricket, and other athletic amusements; theatrical plays and balls; and society functions, became a feature of London life. Here the young ladies met the black coats and scarlet jackets—danced, flirted and married. The scarlet color, of course, was the favorite. Miss Lizars found a jingling ode, said to have been written by a commissariat officer about this time, in which a young lady is supposed to have proclaimed the joys of London society. A couple of verses will be sufficient:

"Sing the delights of London society—
Epaulette, sabretache, sword-knot and plume;
Always enchanting, yet knows no variety—
Scarlet alone can embellish a room.
While spurs are clattering,
Flirting and chattering,
Bend the proud heroes that fight for the crown;
Dancing cotillions,
Cutting civilians,
These are the joys of a garrison town.

"Little reck we of you black-coated laity ;
Forty to one upon *rouge* against *noir* ;
On soldiers we lavish our favors and gaiety,
For the rest we leave them to feel *desespoir*.
Odious vulgarity,
Reckless barbarity,
We have for such *canaille* as these but a frown ;
While flirting with fusiliers,
Smiling on grenadiers—
These are the joys of a garrison town."

But it was not all "beer and skittles." The people were not indifferent to the more serious things of life. Education was not neglected. Many of the early settlers, being artisans and farmers, may not have had much book learning, but they tried to provide for their children. There were no free public schools then; and fees had to be paid—generally about $1 a month—and in some cases even higher.

The first school was in the building that had been erected for a temporary court house—Peter Van Every being the teacher. I have not been able to obtain any special information of this pioneer educator; though he lived in London for several years, and was the owner of property on the north-east corners of Richmond and Dundas Streets. Mr. Rutledge was the next to open a school ; then came John Hawkins, about the present market, and E. A. Talbot, on the corner of Queen's Avenue and Richmond Street. Some of the early teachers were not of the best quality—people who were too lazy and too ignorant for any other business. Talbot, however, was a well-educated man. Another good school was that of Miss Stimson, daughter of one of our early physicians—a cultured lady. Aided by her niece, Miss Grannis, she started a school in a log house of one room, in which a desk, two or three low forms, and a chair for the teacher, constituted the entire furniture, and a few books and slates the educational apparatus. Subsequently she moved to a house on the corner of Talbot and Carling Streets. It is said she occasionally punished the bad boys by putting them in the cellar, where they consoled themselves by stealing the teacher's preserves.

Perhaps the most notable school in these days was that of William Taylor, an Irishman, from Trinity College, Dublin, and an experienced teacher, who began on Talbot Street, just south of York. Then he moved to the north side of

Horton Street, near Talbot. Though a good teacher, his academic actions were conducted with an absolute disregard of manners and dignity. The schoolroom was an addition to the house proper, and served the double purpose of an academy and a kitchen. Taylor attended to his duties in what he may have considered full dress—for he always wore his hat in school—and alternated instruction in three "R's" with the care of the cooking-stove; with one hand holding the tawse and with the other manipulating the frying-pan. The boys relieved the tedium of study by putting corked bottles of water on the stove, shying the most convenient missiles at the teacher's hat, sticking bent pins in his chair, and indulging in the time-honored practice of studious youths of all ages. Then the teacher would pursue the boys with a gad and thrash them impartially.

The first attempt at state aid for educational purposes in Canada was in 1819. By an Act of Parliament, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province was authorized to appoint five trustees for each district, who were to choose a teacher (subject to the Governor's approval), for a district grammar school, the Government allowing £100 per annum for his support. These were not free schools, of course. An act fixed the location of the school at the judicial seat of the district, so that in the London district it was first kept at Charlotteville, but in 1808 was removed to Vittoria. By Act 7, Wm. IV., Chap. CVI., the school for the London district was removed here, and opened in the old building where Van Every first taught. And there it remained until grammar schools lost their distinctive character and became high schools and collegiate institutes.

The first grammar school principal was the Rev. Francis Wright, but I have been unable to discover anything definite about him, beyond the fact that he had the charge of the school until the Rev. B. Bayley was appointed.

Newspapers are supposed to be educational institutions, and London was not without its number. I have already mentioned Talbot's Sun. After it ceased to shine, the Patriot was issued by George Burchard, in 1833; but only lived for a few months. About 1835, Col. Busteed, who had been Secretary to the Governor of St. Lucia, W. I., published the True Sun for a short time. In 1835 Thos. and Benjamin Hodgkinson came from Port Burwell, and established the London Gazette. In 1836 Edward Gratton sent out a few numbers of the London Times ; and in 1839

Talbot commenced the Freeman's Journal, and C. H. Hackstaff the Canadian Inquirer. The Gazette was the Conservative paper, while the Inquirer advocated the views of the Reformers.

Religious instruction was, if anything, more advanced than secular. Dignitaries of the Anglican and Catholic churches visited the district in its earliest days, and itinerant clergymen, both regular and irregular, gave spiritual aid to the pioneers to the extent of their ability. I have already made some brief reference to them, which may here be extended.

Rev. Mr. Cronyn's advent, in 1832, provided the first permanent settlement for his church. Though there were not more than 400 people in the village—if that many—quite a few were Church of England people ; while there were many more in London Township. The lands held by Bishop Stewart, on Dundas and Ridout Streets, were disposed of, and the present site of St. Paul's Cathedral secured. Here the first Anglican Church was built—a frame structure, with a square tower—facing south on Queen's Avenue. It was opened in 1835 ; destroyed by fire on Ash Wednesday, 1844, and was succeeded by the present cathedral.

There were a number of Catholics among the pioneers of London—Dennis O'Brien, John Cruickshank, P. Smith, J. Henry, Dr. Anderson, and others. O'Brien was the leader, and his house was always open for the use of the visiting clergy. But this did not satisfy the ambitions of a people always zealous for their faith. A building was soon erected on the south-west corner of Richmond and Maple Streets, and in 1834 it was dedicated by Father Downie, of St. Thomas. Humble in appearance ; built of logs, with an earthen floor, it was yet one of the first church edifices duly consecrated to divine service, and served the needs of its worshippers until destroyed by fire in 1851.

I have mentioned the little Methodist Church, built in 1833, but I have no definite information in regard to it. While the Wesleyan Methodists, as they were then called, held continuous service in the village from its earliest days, it was not until 1839 that the first substantial building was erected, on the south-east corner of Talbot and King Streets. Here they worshipped until their removal, some years later, to Richmond Street, nearly opposite the site of the City Hall, and the old building passed into the hands

of the Baptists. Among their earfy ministers here were Morris, Stoney, Whitney, Newburg, Carson, Bennett and Jackson.

The first Presbyterian congregation was gathered together about 1832, under the Rev. John Proudfoot, father of the late Dr. Proudfoot, who succeeded him in the charge of his church. This was a U. P. (United Presbyterian) body. It was some few years before they were able to erect a building of their own—a frame structure—located on York Street, west of where the Tecumseh House now stands, which was used until its destruction by fire in 1859. A notable feature in the history of this church is the fact that here—probably for the first time in Canada—instrumental music was employed in the service of a Presbyterian Church. For many years after they commenced accompanying the singing of the Psalms with an old-fashioned melodeon, the "Kist of Whistles," was looked upon by other Presbyterians with holy horror.

There were some Presbyterians, however, who considered themselves as belonging to the Established Church of Scotland, and gradually withdrew from the First Church, having the Word expounded by missionaries and visiting clergymen. They finally became strong enough to form a distinct body, and, I think, a Mr. Fraser, a banker, was their principal elder. But it was not until 1842 that they secured from the Government a lot on the north-east corner of North and Waterloo Streets ; proceeded to erect a church, and to call the Rev. John Scott as minister. This body became St. Andrew's Free Church—the loyal adherents of the Church of Scotland withdrawing, but claiming the building. To induce them to surrender their claim, the Government granted them the Gore, on Richmond Street, in 1859, where they erected the cruciform building, still standing, and became what was called the "Auld Kirk," with Rev. Francis Nicol as minister. And so there were three Presbyterian denominations in London, until the union of 1875.

Other religious bodies began to develop in the early days—Universalists, Congregationalists, Baptists, etc.; but their definite organization dates to a later period.

In this connection a certain transaction may be mentioned, which is not only historical, but illustrative of the early law of land tenure. There were a number of New Connexion Methodists here in the later thirties, and they

thought they would like to have a building of their own. Col. Talbot had charge of the assignment of crown lands, and he gave them the corner where the public library is now located. They commenced to build; but their funds were insufficient, and the building remained for a time unfinished. As there seemed no prospect of the Methodists going on with their work, the officers of the garrison asked Col. Talbot to transfer the lot to them, which he did. Now the Colonel's method of dealing with applicants for crown lands was a very simple one. He took his map, and with a pencil marked the applicant's name on the lot selected. This was all the title the owner had until his fees to the Government were paid, and he received his patent for the land. Until this was done, the Colonel controlled the situation; and if the land was not improved to his satisfaction, he rubbed the holder's name off his map, and wrote down someone else's. It was in accordance with this system that he erased the name of the Methodist New Connexion, and inserted that of Mr. Raynor, the commissariat officer, who did not delay taking out his patent. The church building was finished as a theatre—opened in 1840; and on its little stage for many years strutted the amateur actors of garrison times—including some who are grave and dignified citizens of London to-day. When the troops left, the property remained in the name of Mr. Raynor, its legal owner, and when he died, a well-known citizen purchased it from his widow for a nominal sum.

The growing importance of the settlement now rendered it necessary that the haphazard system under which its affairs had been managed, should cease. Municipal institutions, as we know them, did not exist in the earliest days of the Province. The Governor-in-Council practically had charge of everything. The Parliament for the Province was summoned in 1792, and that body took general oversight of municipal matters, delegating to the board of quarter sessions some minor details. Then an act was passed, providing for the organization of township municipalities, by a vote taken at a meeting of the householders, with authority to elect certain township officers with limited powers. On the first Monday of January, 1819, the first town meeting for London Township was held at the house of Joshua Applegarth, a short distance west of "The Forks." The summons for the meeting was issued by two magistrates, Col. Talbot and Daniel Springer. Applegarth was elected first clerk; Richard Talbot and Christopher Oxtoby, assessors; John Young, John Gety and Ezekiel

Gilman, roadmasters; Thomas Routledge and Daniel Hines, poundkeepers ; Wm. Asket and Thomas Askins, wardens. And by these officers and their successors the settlement of London was governed for a time.

But under this system local affairs were far from satisfactory. The streets were unimproved, and ornamented with stumps ; sidewalks, where they existed at all, consisted of a few planks. The fire department was a bucket brigade—every householder being required to own a leather bucket, and when a fire occurred, to fall into line with his neighbors, and pass the buckets from hand to hand. The lighting of the streets at night was effected by the tallow candles shining dimly from the windows of houses, and the brighter lamp from the tavern door; while the belated citizen navigated the streets with the aid of a tin lantern, punctured full of holes in a more or less ornamental pattern. The waterworks started with a pump at the court house square, supplied by those springs that have given our aldermen so much trouble in keeping the west end of Dundas Street properly paved. Later, tanks were constructed at some of the street corners for fire-fighting purposes; while the domestic supply came from the old-fashioned bucket dipped into the old-fashioned well.

Sir James Alexander, a military officer, stationed in London a few years later (1842), when matters had somewhat improved, thus describes the looks of the little town :

"Among innumerable stumps of trees, blasted by fire and girdling, were seen wide streets at right angles to each other. These were for the most part bordered by scattered wooden houses, of one and two stories, and many had vegetable gardens about them. Stumps of trees were seen in all directions along the street, and some might have been found in the cellars and kitchens of the houses. In the principal thoroughfares—Dundas Street—where the best stores are, the houses were adjacent, and some few of brick."

If this is how the town looked in 1842, it is evident that public improvements were a pressing necessity in 1838, when the people began agitating for a separate municipal government. Under the existing system it was evident no improvements could be made. Occasionally a London man was elected to office. John Jennings was a warden in 1838. And in appointing roadmasters and poundkeepers, local men were selected for the territory between " The

Forks." The township council was not disposed to raise much money for the benefit of the village. In 1837 about £7 10s. were expended for a pump on the court-house square, and for some drains and other repairs on the streets. But, as a rule, what few local improvements were made had to be provided for by local subscriptions. And while some of the settlers were public-spirited, many were not disposed to open their pockets for the public good. On one occasion, it is said a meeting was called to consider the advisability of purchasing a fire engine. Some were favorable; but Thomas Parke, M.P., effectually settled the agitation by pointing out that it would be much cheaper for the people to go to a fire just as soon as it commenced, at which time a few buckets of water would extinguish it.

In the meantime, the settlement had outgrown the limits of the original survey. Mr. Goodhue had purchased a portion of the Kent farm, north of the original survey, and laid it out in May, 1830, as far north as Hitchcock (now Maple) Street. Mr. Kent followed this example, and his survey of the land from Hitchcock to Kent Street bears date of May 28th, 1832. East of the settlement, people began to take up land at an early date, and this portion, extending east to Adelaide, and north to Huron Streets, was finally laid out between 1838 and 1840, being known for many years as the "New Survey." The first plan of this part of our city is on record in the Crown Lands Department, and bears the signature of William Hawken, of the Surveyor-General's office, and the date of May 11th, 1840.

The new survey, however, was not completely opened up. There were three reservations embraced in this area. The first was the Schofield property, extending from Dundas Street northward to about 100 feet above Princess Avenue. Its western boundary ran between Colborne and Maitland, and the eastern between Maitland and William. When this was subsequently surveyed, the streets opened through it were much narrower; which accounts for the jogs in this part of the city. Then there were the Glebe lands of the Church of England, which extended from Dundas Street, south to Trafalgar, and from the line of what is now Burwell Street, east to Adelaide. The third was the military reservation previously described.

West of Richmond and north of Central Avenue was also at this time unsurveyed. But it was decided in obtaining

a charter for the village to take in all this contiguous territory—the proposed boundaries being from Huron Street, south to the river, and Trafalgar Street, and east from the river to Adelaide.

The result of the movement was the passage of an Act of Parliament, on the 10th of February, 1840, to "define the limits of the Town of London, in the district of London, and to establish a board of police therein." The area asked for was allowed ; and all placed under the control of the board of police—exclusive only of the military reservation.

The board was constituted "a body, corporate and politic, in fact and in law," by the name of "The President and Board of Police of London."

The new town was divided into four wards ; and the lines of division doubtless give some indication of the location of the residents. St. George's Ward took in all north of the center of Dundas Street, about two-thirds of the entire area ; St. Patrick's Ward extended from the south side of Dundas to the north side of King ; St. Andrew's, from the south side of King to the north side of Bathurst; and St. David's, from the south side of Bathurst to the southern boundary of the town.

The Board of Police was to consist of five persons, one to be chosen from each ward, and these four to elect the fifth.

The power of the board, while not very extensive, yet provided for a far greater measure of self-government than the people had previously enjoyed. It could raise money by taxes, not exceeding four pence on the pound, a town lot not to be rated above £5. It could make by-laws regulating victualling houses and slaughter-houses; the sale of hay, wood and bread; immoderate driving, fire protection, street repairs, and generally to control nuisances, and to preserve order.

By authority of the Act the sheriff held the first election on the first Monday in March, 1840, with the following results :

St. George's Ward—Geo. J. Goodhue.
St. Patrick's Ward—Dennis O'Brien.
St. Andrew's Ward—Simeon Morril.
St. David's Ward—John Balkwill.

The board organized by the appointment of James Givens (afterwards judge), a fifth member; Mr. Goodhue was chosen President; Alex. Robertson, Clerk, and John Harris, Treasurer.

These men have all been mentioned in the course of this paper, with the exception of the Clerk, who appears to have been a shiftless sort of person. Two brothers were running a tinshop, and were men of good repute, but Alexander must have been of a lower type; made a very poor Clerk, and only held office for a year.

But with five of the leading citizens in control, London made a good start as a municipality. With a population of over 2,000, with leaders characterized by energy and business ability; and with favorable conditions, its prospects for the future were bright, and the hopes of the people were sure to be realized.

THE RT. REV. BENJ. CRONYN, LL.D.

Bishop of Huron, 1857-1871.

The First Bishop of Huron*

BY VERSCHOYLE CRONYN.

On a chill November evening, in the year 1832, along the bush road, following the Indian trail between the Niagara and Detroit Rivers, just south of the present City of London (now known as the Commissioner's Road), there toiled in a rough lumber wagon a weary, travel-stained family of immigrants, consisting of the Reverend Benjamin Cronyn, then just thirty years of age, his wife, and two young children. Circumstances and surroundings more depressing could hardly be conceived. After several weeks' voyage, in an ill-found sailing vessel from Dublin, they had arrived in Quebec, and were now pursuing their weary way to the Township of Adelaide, to bring the ministrations of the church to the settlers there, who had been represented to Mr. Cronyn before leaving home, as numerous and wholly without the services of an ordained minister. For days this solitary wagonload had jolted along through the narrow, stumpy road, far from home and friends, in the midst of a wilderness, strangers in a strange land, night falling fast, and no apparent refuge near, the father's heart was

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[*The Right Reverend Benjamin Cronyn, first Bishop of Huron, son of Thomas Cronyn, Esq., of Kilkenny, Ireland; born there 11th July, 1802; educated at Kilkenny College and Trinity College, Dublin; B.A. in 1822, Divinity Prizeman 1824, M.A. 1825, D.D. 1855; ordained Deacon by the Lord Bishop of Raphoe in 1825, and Priest by the Archbishop of Tuam on Trinity Sunday, 1827. His first Curacy was in the County of Cumberland, England, under the Rev. Carus Wilson; afterwards at Kilcormick, County Longford, Ireland, where he married Margaret Ann Bickerstaff, daughter of J. Bickerstaff, Esq., of Lislea, and from whence he came to Canada in 1832. Was Incumbent at London from 1832 to 1866; elected first Bishop of Huron at London, Canada, 8th July, 1857 (the first Episcopal election held in Canada); consecrated at Lambeth, England, by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury on 28th October, 1857; died at London, Canada, on the 2nd September, 1871.]

sorely anxious for his delicate wife and little ones. From a solitary traveller they happened to meet, he inquired whether any shelter was to be found in the neighborhood, and then for the first time heard of the Village of "The Forks" (London), distant about two miles to the north of where they were. Thither they made their way, down the Wharncliffe Road and over Westminster bridge; said to be the first bridge ever erected across the Thames in that neighborhood. They put up at a hotel, dignified by the title of "The Mansion House," kept by one John O'Neil, situated on the north side of Dundas Street, just west of where Perrin's factory now stands.

London then contained about four hundred inhabitants. It was the year of the cholera, and, in consequence, much excitement prevailed amongst them, many having fled to the woods in dread of the contagion. So utterly worn out was Mrs. Cronyn that it was decided to rest there for a time. The arrival of a Church of England clergyman becoming known to the inhabitants, all were summoned to service on Sunday, in a frame building on the south-west corner of the court-house square, which building still stands; it originally served the purpose of the district court house. It is said that it was first erected where the court house now stands, and was moved to its present position to make way for the erection of the court house. I had always understood that the first house erected in London was by Peter McGregor in 1826, near the corner of King and Ridout Streets, but in "Annals of the Colonial Church"—a work published in Quebec many years ago—the Honorable and Reverend Dr. Stewart is said to have reported that on Sunday, July 28th, 1822, he ministered to a congregation of nearly 250 persons in London, and the same misleading statement having reappeared in "The Bishops in Canada"—a work by the Reverend Canon Mockridge, of Toronto—I accordingly wrote Mr. Freeman Talbot, of Strath-Carrol, Assiniboia East, now in his 92nd year, who settled in the Township of London in 1818, and has a vivid recollection of these early years, suggesting that perhaps it was in the first church at St. John's, London Township, Dr. Stewart had officiated in 1822. He replies as follows:

"South Qu'Appelle, April 11th, 1902.

"My Dear Friend,—Though now in my ninety-second year, I am both able and willing to answer every question put to me in your letter of April 7th.

"The frame of St. John's Church was erected on lot 17, the 5th concession of London Township; was shingled, roughly sided, and a temporary floor put in, and also very temporary windows; so the church stood in 1823, but no further work was done until late in the forties, though your father frequently had services there. About 1845 or 1846, Mr. Brough employed John Hasket, a carpenter, to complete the church. He laid down a proper floor, erected a pulpit and pews, and I acted as auctioneer in selling the pews. We gave due credit to every original subscriber who had paid his subscription many years before. And the subscribers for the completion of the church, who came into the township much later, were perfectly satisfied with the arrangement. Old Mr. Fralic (long since dead) donated two acres, on the north-east corner of his lot, for the church site and burial ground.

"As early as 1822, Mr. McIntosh, the clergyman at St. Thomas, preached twice in the barn of the late William Geary, on lot 15, 5th concession of London. The Reverend Edward Boswell also held frequent services in the Geary barn. Mr. Geary was an English farmer, and was employed by an Irish nobleman to superintend the agricultural works on his estate. While so employed he married a Miss Jones, who was the daughter of an Episcopal clergyman, and she always had a strong influence in attracting Episcopal clergymen to hold services in the barn. Frequent baptisms were held in the same building, and it was in that barn that the Rev. Dr. Stewart officiated in 1822.

"In 1826 Peter McGregor, a little Scotch tailor, who had married a Miss Pool, in the Township of Westminster, came to the town site, just surveyed, and erected a very small hotel on the second lot, west of Ridout Street, fronting on King Street. Year after year, as business increased, Mr. McGregor added to his hotel, until he was able to entertain forty or fifty visitors from day to day.

"I see by a report in a London paper of a speech made by Judge Hughes, where he speaks of a Mr. McCann being an early hotelkeeper. A great mistake. William Hale, Dr. Lee, Joseph O'Dell, John O'Neil and Boyle Travis conducted from time to time the two leading hotels in London: the Robinson Hall and the Mansion House. In after years Peter McCann erected an hotel just across the street from the Cathedral. Peter was keeping that hotel at the time I left London, in 1856.

"In the month of August, 1832, the British Government sent out four hundred discharged soldiers and pensioners, many with large families, to settle in the Township of Adelaide on free grants. Houses were built for them under the direction of the late Col. Roswell Mount, at the time Member of Parliament for Middlesex. I erected thirty-two of these houses, by a contract with Col. Mount. At the same time came, I believe, with these men your father, the Blakes, the Radcliffs, the Currans, and many of the former officers of the discharged soldiers. Your father had intended to settle in Adelaide, but the people of London persuaded him to remain with them. On the 8th day of January, 1833, your father married Freeman Talbot and Ann Eliza Clark, the first couple ever married by your father in Canada, as you will see by the records to-day in St. Paul's Cathedral. Your obedient servant,

"FREEMAN TALBOT."

On the Monday after Mr. Cronyn's first service, mentioned above, he was waited upon by a deputation of the congregation, begging him to remain with them as their pastor; and immediately on this, came entreaties from many couples in the neighborhood to be married, some of whom had for years lived together as husband and wife, but had never had an opportunity of marriage by an ordained minister. So, guided by one named Robert Parkinson, familiar with the bush, on horseback, they followed for days blazed lines through the woods, stopping at the settlers' shanties, the parson performing many marriages, oftentimes uniting the parents and baptizing their children. Previous to Mr. Cronyn's arrival in London, it had been intended to erect a church on the north-west corner of Dundas and Ridout Streets; at least such is the tradition—certainly several burials were made in that lot—but on application to the Government, Mr. Cronyn secured the grant of the block of land upon which St. Paul's now stands, and in 1835 had erected thereon a frame church facing the south. Thus described in a book published in 1836: "The Episcopal Church, if we except the spire, which is disproportioned to the size of the tower, is one of the finest, and certainly one of the neatest churches in the Province." Between the Church and Dundas Street was a dismal swamp, full of fallen trees and underbrush, where the frogs held high carnival in summer.

Among the early settlers in the Township of Adelaide were many of education and refinement, whose antecedents

unfitted them for the rough life of the bush ; consequently great distress soon prevailed amongst them, and during Mr. Cronyn's first winter, on one occasion he, with his friend Colonel Curran, started on foot from London to Adelaide, carrying a quarter of beef strung from a pole between them, for the relief of friends among settlers there. Soon the load grew heavy, necessitating frequent stoppages for rest. Night came on, and the wolves numerous, fierce and daring in those days, scenting the raw beef, howled uncomfortably near. To add to their troubles, they lost the trail in the dark, and when about to abandon the beef and endeavor to retrace their steps, discovered a light, and making for it found a logger's shanty, where, stretched on the floor, with feet towards a huge fire, the choppers slept. They hospitably made room between them for the tired travellers, who laid down and rested there for several hours, but were again on the march long before daylight, furnished by the choppers with a lantern, which for a time showed them the trail and kept the wolves at a distance; but soon the light went out and they again lost their path, the wolves howling dangerously near, when they were discovered by some of the settlers on the lookout for the expected succour.

Often have I listened to strange fireside tales by my father and friends of their Adelaide experience. How they used to sleep on a straw tick, on a heap of brush for a bedstead, in the corner of the shanty ; of the inconvenience resulting from fowl roosting overhead ; how the bedtick grew thin, and the brush underneath becoming painfully present, was explained by the fact, that in order to keep life in the solitary cow, she was being fed daily from the straw-tick. And, again, the host explaining, that it was not frequent washing of his night-cap that necessitated its being hung out to dry, but simply because it was in it the pudding had been boiled. And how at night they were lulled by the howling of the wolves, which at times becoming too noisy, the door of the shanty would be thrown open and a shot fired in the direction of the nearest howl, when silence would follow.

Soon after his arrival in London, my father was appointed to the parish of London and the parts adjacent. And in 1836, on the creation of the Rectories of St. Paul's, London, and St. John's, London Township, was appointed, by patent from the Crown, Rector of both. The latter he resigned in 1842, and that of St. Paul's in 1866. A fearless horseman, he almost lived in the saddle in the early

years of his ministry, endeavoring to accomplish the work of his limitless parish, and being an expert swimmer, he would, if the weather permitted, boldly swim his horse over swollen streams that crossed his path. I have seen him, on returning home after a particularly miry ride—he and his horse bespattered with mud—unsaddle, and throwing off all but shirt and trousers, swim the horse in the river to wash off the mud. On one occasion, when driving into town from his residence on the hill, near where Mount St. Joseph's Orphange now stands, with Mrs. Cronyn and a son and daughter—aged thirteen and nine, respectively—in the carriage, the horse took fright at a hole in the bridge over the medway, and backed the vehicle off into the river. He and Mrs. Cronyn leaped out on to the bridge, but the children went down with the horse and carriage into about eight feet of water. The horse struggled to the log pier of the bridge, where he was able to keep his head above water, but the children, who had been thrown from the carriage, went to the bottom. Mr. Cronyn, without even removing his hat, waited until the water cleared sufficiently to enable him to see objects in the bottom, when he dove down, and, taking a child on each arm, swam ashore with them. My sister was insensible, but soon recovered.

In 1836 Sir Francis Bond Head, then Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, visited London; he and his suite on horseback. When leaving, Mr. Cronyn and other prominent citizens accompanied them for some miles out of town, the parson's faithful hound following When crossing the Oak Plains, south-east of London, a deer sprang out into the open glade, the hound in full cry, and the whole cavalcade, Governor and Parson, joined in the hunt, and had an exciting chase until, the deer crossing the river, the scent was lost.

In 1837, Mr. Cronyn, having visited Ireland, was returning, bringing with him a number of thoroughbred dogs for friends here, which, on the road between Hamilton and London, were being conveyed in a covered wagon following the stage. The weather was bitterly cold at Brantford, and the stage proprietor, with rough and blasphemous language, refused to permit a thinly-clad negro to ride inside the stage. Mr. Cronyn remonstrated ineffectually, and then suggested that the negro might turn in with the dogs, which he gladly did. This was Josiah Henson, the original of Mrs. Stowe's "Uncle Tom," just escaped from slavery.

Often afterwards did he personally thank his benefactor of that instance.

I have sometimes heard the identify of Henson with Mrs. Stowe's Uncle Tom questioned, but in 1876 the late Rev. W. Harrison Tilley, first Rector of the Cronyn Memorial Church, wrote Mrs. Stowe on the subject, and I have here her reply, as follows :

" Amherst, Mass., May 15th, 1876.

" Dear Sir,—I take pleasure in endorsing with all my heart that noble black man, Josiah Henson, whom I believe to be worthy of all the aid, and help, which any good man may be disposed to give. It is also true that a sketch of his life, published many years ago by the Mass. Anti-Slavery Society, furnished me many of the finest conceptions, and incidents, of Uncle Tom's character. In particular, the scene where he refuses to free himself by the murder of a brutal master.

" The real history of Josiah Henson, in some points goes even beyond that of Uncle Tom, in traits of heroic manhood. He once visited me in Andover, and personal intercourse confirmed the high esteem I had for him. I heartily hope he may have friends to assist him in his difficulties. Yours very truly, H. B. STOWE."

To add some of my own more personal recollections of these times, I will begin with the year of the Rebellion, 1837. I was then in my fifth year. We resided on lot 15, in the 3rd concession of London, on the brow of the hill, over the north branch of the Thames, before referred to. All male adults had been summoned to serve in the militia, and all firearms requisitioned for their use. My father was absent in Ireland, on urgent family affairs. My mother surrendered to the militia all firearms in her possession, with many musket bullets cast by herself. We lived in hourly apprehension of invasion, for rumors were rife of approaching bands of rebels, and it was thought that any night we might be burned in our beds. So, in order that we might all die together, my mother had us, her four little ones, to sleep in her room. Our only wagon-road then to town was around by London West, over Blackfriar's bridge. I distinctly recollect, in the winter of 1837 and 1838, the first Sunday after the arrival of the 32nd Regiment of foot, our coming to church in a lumber wagon drawn by oxen. When we reached Blackfriar's bridge the

oxen were left fastened by a chain under the bridge, and we walked from there to the church; we children doubtless thinking less of the service we were going to, than of the soldiers we expected to see there, whom our youthful expectations had pictured as men of gigantic stature, in gorgeous uniform, with towering plumed helmets. I shall never forget our sad disillusion, on seeing instead a body of men, seemingly small of stature, in gray winter overcoats and forage caps, marching up the church steps. The frame church, as I have said, faced the south, and had a high flight of steps in front. This church was for many years the largest Auditorium in town, and witnessed some notable gatherings. I was present there in the early forties at an oratoria given by Braham (the then world-renowned basso) and his son, just rising into fame as a singer. London being on the high road between Buffalo and Detroit, many distinguished artists used to tarry and perform at London, which otherwise would not have been of sufficient population to attract them.

The Military Reserve, between Waterloo and Richmond Streets, extended from Dufferin Avenue (then Bond Street) on the south, to Carling's Creek, on the north. 'Tis said this twenty-four acres was originally intended as agricultural show grounds, but was handed over to the military at the time of the Rebellion. The first infantry barracks were entirely of logs; to the east of Wellington Street, about where Wolfe Street now is. Then followed frame barracks, west of Wellington; the Artillery and Commissariat, at the north-east angle of Wellington and Bond. For years London had two Regiments of the Line and a Battery of Artillery, and later a Company of the Military Train.

Immediately on the arrival of the troops, guards were posted on the several bridges and roads entering the town, and no one was allowed to pass after nightfall who could not give the countersign. I remember the heavy gates on Blackfriar's bridge, erected by the Royal Engineers. When summer came and the river could be forded in many places, these became a laughing stock, and were removed.

In those early days the country was a paradise for sportsmen. The Thames and its tributaries swarmed with fish, including speckled trout, and the woods abounded with game. I saw my father shoot a deer in a field of grain close to our residence; and the howling of the wolves at

night could frequently be heard. They were very destructive to sheep and young stock. Nine dollars per scalp was the reward for their destruction—a great source of revenue to the Indians.

Speaking of the Indians: They then formed a large portion of the population of this western peninsula, and used to come to town in numbers to trade for their peltries and baskets. Sleigh loads of deer for one dollar per carcass was a common thing. Wild turkeys, quail, partridge and pigeons abounded within the present limits of the City of London. The flight of wild pigeons in the spring of the year would at times almost darken the sky; a belt of them, for hours at a time, extending from horizon to horizon. The Thames was a great highway for the Indians; processions of bark canoes passing and repassing constantly, and in the spring of the year lumberers, on rafts of pine timber from the Dorchester pineries, with their row of long sweeps at each end, would pass quickly on the way to Lake St. Clair. With the spring run of fish in the river, tons would be taken with seines and dip-nets, mostly suckers, but many mullet, bass, pike, and occasionally sturgeon and maskinonje (lunges). In 1844 I witnessed the killing of a bear in the river, just under the court house, which had been chased from the woods into town.

Shortly after London becoming a garrison town, my father was appointed chaplain to the troops. There were usually two Regiments of the Line and a Battery of Artillery in garrison. His Sunday duties were a drive of four miles, from his residence in London Township to the military service in St. Paul's at 9 a.m., then followed the usual 11 o'clock service; after that a ride of seven miles, by the old winding road to St. John's, for an afternoon service, and back to St. Paul's for the evening, with week-day services in cottages and schoolhouses throughout the country parts.

During the Rebellion of '37 a large number of prisoners were confined in the London jail—about one hundred at one time, cruelly overcrowded. Seven of them were condemned and hung, and many banished to "Van Diemen's Land." My father attended the unfortunates in their last hours, and accompanied them to the gallows. It was a terrible harrowing time, particularly as he felt most keenly the undue severity of their sentence.

The frame church spoken of was destroyed by fire on Ash Wednesday, 1844, and the foundation of the present building was laid with great ceremony, by the Right Rev. John Strachan, Bishop of Toronto, on St. John's day that year. The military turned out in force, and the artillery fired a salute of twenty guns. Pending the completion of the new building, the congregation worshipped in the old Mechanics' Institute; a frame building, then standing on the court-house square. It was during service in this building, on a Sunday in April, 1845, that the cry of fire announced the commencement of the great fire, whereby about 150 houses were destroyed. Chief Justice Robinson was present ; the psalms of the day were being read. The exit from the hall was by one rather narrow staircase. On the alarm the people near the door began to go out ; Mr. Cronyn kept on reading, and the Chief Justice responding in clear, deliberate tones, until the entire congregation had quietly withdrawn. Thus, by the presence of mind of the Rector and Chief Justice, doubtless a panic, and probably serious accident, was averted. The fire had commenced in the Robinson Hall (the principal hotel at that time), just across the square from where they were at service. The Chief Justice's quarters were at the hotel, and his unselfish conduct in endeavoring to avert a panic, nearly cost him his baggage, which he had barely time to secure, and at some risk. With a squad of artillerymen under him, the Rector all day, until late in the night, worked at emptying the houses of their furniture ahead of the fire, which pursued them with relentless fury. Alas, in many instances, licking up the piles of furniture, which the salvagers thought they had left at a safe distance from danger. At nightfall the Rector reached his house tired out, with his Sunday suit very much the worse for wear from the rough work in which he had been engaged.

London, Ont., 15th April, 1902.